



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum **News Release**

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Treasure-trove of Papers on Afghanistan, Russia, and Middle East Given to Carter Library

Former Ambassador John Gunther Dean Provides Fascinating Background to Historic Issues

Atlanta, GA. - Former Ambassador John Gunther Dean sheds new light on a wide array of international issues in documents donated to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library. The unclassified papers cover topics ranging from the sinking of the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk in August 2000 to the role Israel played in supplying high technology and weaponry to India.

"This new donation of material will give historians a clearer understanding of today's international events and relationships," said Robert Bohanan, Deputy Director of the Carter Presidential Library.

Researchers will gain a better knowledge of Afghanistan today after reading Dean's papers beginning in the late 1980's on U.S. involvement in setting a timetable for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. In addition, Ambassador Dean's materials provide new insights on India's relationship with Russia and Israel.

John Gunther Dean served as U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, Denmark, Lebanon, Thailand, and India during a Foreign Service career that stretched from 1956 to 1989. This new donation of papers to the Carter Presidential Library is designed to supplement the many confidential papers Dean donated to the Carter Library last year.

Documents in the first donation cover the Ambassador's service from 1967 to 1977 and have been declassified. Those papers are currently available to the public. They cover the following events:

- 1) The start of the U.S.-Vietnamese peace talks in Paris (1968-1969)
- 2) Mr. Dean's service as Deputy for Civil Operations and Rural Development (CORDS) to the military commander of military region 1 in Vietnam (1970-1972)
- 3) Mr. Dean's service in Laos where he helped end 20 years of warfare (1972-1973)
- 4) Ambassador to Cambodia (1974-1975)
- 5) Ambassador to Denmark (1975-1978)

Ambassador Dean's service in Lebanon (1978-1981) is in the process of being made available to the public. His subsequent postings in Thailand and India will be declassified as approval is obtained.

While in Vietnam (1970-1972), Mr. Dean helped the Vietnamese protect the Cham Museum in Danang, at the request of President Nixon. At the end of the Vietnam conflict, not a single piece of sculpture was missing from the museum.

President Nixon's instructions that the museum be protected are referred to favorably in the museum guidebook, which is presented in five languages. The Cham Museum in Danang is now one of Vietnam's leading tourist attractions.

The first world exhibition of Cham Art will be held in Paris in October and President Nixon's (and Ambassador Dean's) assistance in preserving Vietnam's heritage will be cited by both Vietnamese and French leaders at the opening ceremony. A special file on the protection of the Cham Museum is now available at the Carter Presidential Library and the Nixon Library.

In addition, Ambassador Dean's oral history recorded by the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training is available on the Internet at www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/library/oralhistory/clohproject/dean.phtml.

For more information, contact the Carter Library at (404) 865-7109 or visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.org.